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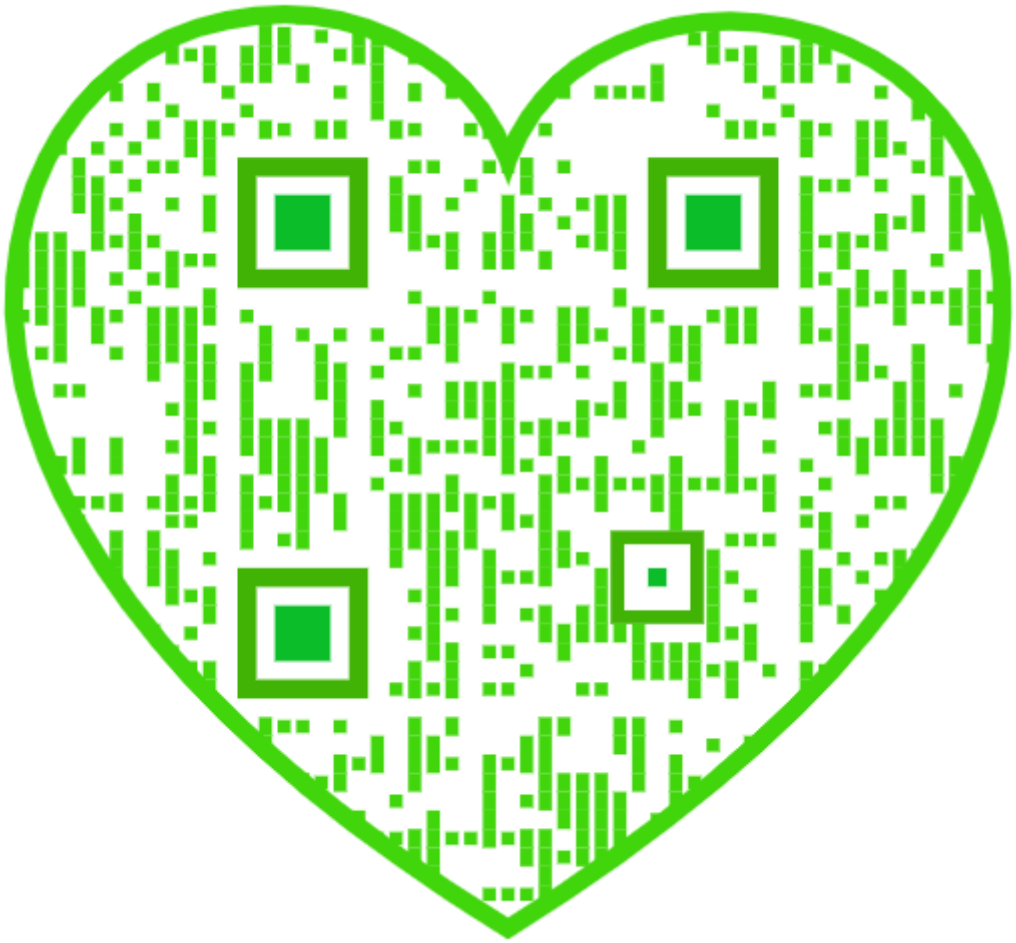

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A

METHOD

OF

BREAKING HORSES,

AND TEACHING

SOLDIERS TO RIDE,

Deſigned for the Uſe of the

ARMY,

BY

HENRY EARL OF PEMBROKE.

------ Equitem docuere ſub armis
Inſultare ſolo, et greſſus glomerare ſuperbos. VIRG.
Vis conſilî expers mole ſuâ ruit. HOR.

THE SECOND EDITION,

Reviſed, and corrected, with Additions.

LONDON:
Printed by J. HUGHS, Lincoln's-Inn-Fields.
M DCC LXII.

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TO THE

KING.

SIR,

WHEN the first regiment of light dragoons was raised under the command of my friend general GEORGE AUGUSTUS ELIOTT, we had frequent occasions to lament together the wretched system of HORSEMANSHIP, that at present prevails in

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the ARMY: A ſyſtem, diſgraceful in itſelf, and productive in its conſequences of the moſt fatal evils: For troops in their own nature moſt excellent and brave, have been frequently rendered inferior to leſs powerful ones, both in men and horſes, for want of proper inſtructions and intelligence in this Art. Theſe ſerious conſiderations (for indeed they are very much ſo,) induced me to write down and make public the following Leſſons, calculated for the uſe of the Cavalry: They

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They are ſuch as I have always practiſed myſelf; and taught both in the above-mentioned regiment and elſewhere, with conſtant ſucceſs. Incited by theſe reaſons, I thus preſume to lay them at Your MAJESTY's feet; and am the more encouraged to it from the honour You have often done me of talking to me upon HORSEMANSHIP; as alſo from this confidence, that if what I here recommend, be deemed in any wiſe likely to be uſeful, (as I flatter myſelf, it may, if candidly examined,

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examined, and judiciouſly practiſed,) it will not fail of receiving Your MAJESTY's Royal Approbation and Support. I am,

SIR,

YOUR MAJESTY's

MOST DUTIFUL SUBJECT

AND DEVOTED SERVANT,

WHITEHALL,
Feb. 15, 1761.

PEMBROKE.

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METHOD

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A METHOD OF BREAKING HORSES, AND Teaching SOLDIERS to Ride, &c.

CHAP. I.

The method of preparing horſes to be mounted, with the circumſtances relative to it.

THOUGH all horſes for the ſervice are generally bought at an age, when they have already been backed, I would have them begun and prepared for the rider with the ſame care,

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gentleneſs and caution, as if they had never been handled or backed, in order to prevent accidents, which might elſe ariſe from ſkittiſhneſs or other cauſes: and as it is proper, that they ſhould be taught the figure of the ground they are to go upon, when they are at firſt mounted, (which probably may be by no very able horſemen, or perhaps by quite raw recruits,) they ſhould be previouſly trotted in a *longe* on circles, without any one upon them.

The manner of doing this is as follows: Put an eaſy *caveſſon* upon the horſe's noſe, and make him go forwards round you, ſtanding quiet and holding the *longe*; and let another man, if you find it neceſſary, follow him with a whip: All this muſt be done very gently, and but

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but a little at a time; for more horſes are ſpoilt by over-much work, than by any other treatment whatever; and that by very contrary effects, for ſometimes it drives them into vice, madneſs and deſpair, and often it ſtupifies them and totally diſpirits them.

The firſt obedience required in a horſe is going forwards: 'Till he performs this duty freely, never even think of making him rein back, which would inevitably render him reſtive: As ſoon as he goes forwards readily, ſtop and careſs him. You muſt remember in this, and likewiſe in every other exerciſe, to uſe him to go equally well, to the right and left; and when he obeys, careſs him and diſmiſs him immediately. If a horſe, that is very young, takes fright and ſtands

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ſtill, lead on another horſe before him, which probably will induce him inſtantly to follow. Put a ſnaffle in his mouth; and when he goes freely, ſaddle him, girting him at firſt very looſe. Let the cord, which you hold, be long and looſe; but not ſo much ſo, as to endanger the horſe's entangling his legs in it. It muſt be obſerved, that ſmall circles, in the beginning, would conſtrain the horſe too much, and put him upon defending himſelf. No bend muſt be required at firſt: never ſuffer him to gallop falſe; but whenever he attempt it, ſtop him without delay, and then ſet him off afreſh. If he gallops of his own accord, and true, permit him to continue it; but if he does it not voluntarily, do not demand it of him at firſt. Should he fly and jump, ſhake the cord gently upon his

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his noſe without jerking it, and he will fall into his trot again. If he ſtands ſtill, plunges or rears, let the man, who holds the whip, make a noiſe with it; but never touch him, till it be abſolutely neceſſary to make him go on. When you change hands, ſtop and careſs him, and entice him by fair means to come up to you: For by preſenting yourſelf, as ſome do, on a ſudden before horſes, and frightening them to the other ſide, you run a great riſk of giving them a ſhyneſs. If he keeps his head too low, ſhake the *caveſſon* to make him raiſe it: And in whatever the horſe does, whether he walks, trots, or gallops, let it be a conſtant rule, that the motion be determined and really ſuch as is intended, without the leaſt ſhuffling, pacing, or any other irregular gait.

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CHAP. II.

The method of placing the men and rendering them firm on horſeback, with ſome occaſional inſtructions for them and the horſes.

'TIS neceſſary that the greateſt attention, and the ſame gentleneſs, that is uſed in teaching the horſes, be obſerved likewiſe in teaching the men, eſpecially at the beginning. Every method and art muſt be practiſed to create and preſerve, both in man and horſe, all poſſible feeling and ſenſibility, contrary to the uſage of moſt riding maſters, who ſeem induſtriouſly to labour at aboliſhing theſe principles both in one and the other. As ſo many eſſential

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ſential points depend upon the manner, in which a man is at firſt placed on horſeback, it ought to be conſidered, and attended to with the ſtricteſt care and exactneſs.

The abſurdity of putting a man (who perhaps has never before been upon a horſe; or if he has, 'tis probably ſo much the worſe,) on a rough trotting horſe, on which he is obliged (ſuppoſing the horſe is inſenſible enough to ſuffer it; and if he be not, the man runs a great riſk of breaking his neck,) to ſtick with all the force of his arms and legs, is too obvious to need mentioning. This rough work, all at once, is plainly as detrimental at firſt, as it is excellent afterwards in proper time. No man can be either well, or firmly

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ſeated on horſeback, unleſs he be maſter of the ballance of his body, quite uncontrained, with a full poſſeſſion of himſelf, and at his eaſe; none of which requiſites can he enjoy, if his attention be otherwiſe engaged; as it muſt wholely be in a raw, unſuppled, and unprepared lad, who is put at once upon a rough horſe: In ſuch a diſtreſsful ſtate he is forced to keep himſelf on at any rate, by holding to the bridle, (at the expence of the ſenſibility both of his own hand, and the horſe's mouth,) and by clinging with his legs, in danger of his life, and to the certain depravation of a right feeling in the horſe;--- a thing abſolutely neceſſary to be kept delicate, for the forming properly both of man and horſe; not to mention the horrid appearance of ſuch a figure, ren-

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rendered totally incapable of uſe and action.

The firſt time a man is put on horſe-back, it ought to be upon a very gentle one. He never ſhould be made to trot, till he is quite eaſy in the walk; nor gallop, till he is able to trot properly. The ſame muſt be obſerved in regard to horſes: they ſhould never be made to trot, till they are obedient, and their mouths are well formed on a walk; nor be made to gallop, till the ſame be effected on a trot. When he is arrived at ſuch a degree of firmneſs in his ſeat, the more he trots, (which no man whatever ſhould ever leave off,) and the more he rides rough horſes, the better. This is not only the beſt method, (I may ſay, the only right

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right one,) but alſo the eaſieſt and the ſhorteſt: by it, a man is ſoon made ſufficiently an horſeman for a ſoldier; but by the other deteſtable methods, that are commonly uſed, a man, inſtead of improving, contracts all ſorts of bad habits, and rides worſe and worſe every day; the horſe too becomes daily more and more unfit for uſe. In proceeding according to the manner I have propoſed, a man is rendered firm and eaſy upon the horſe, and, as it were, of a piece with him; both his own and the horſe's ſenſibility is preſerved, and each in a ſituation fit to receive and practiſe all leſſons effectually: for if the man and horſe do not both work without difficulty and conſtraint, the more they are exerciſed, the worſe they become; every thing they do, is void of all grace, and of all uſe.

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Among the various methods, that are uſed, of placing people on horſeback; few are directed by reaſon. Some inſiſt, that ſcarce any preſſure at all ſhould be upon the backſide; others would have the ſeat be almoſt upon the backbone: out of theſe two contrary, and equally ridiculous methods, an excellent one may be found by taking the medium. Before you let the man mount, teach him to know, and always to examine, if the curb be well placed, (I mean, when the horſe has a bit in his mouth, which at firſt he ſhould not; but only a ſnaffle, till the rider is firm in his ſeat, and the horſe alſo ſomewhat taught;) and likewiſe if the noſe-band be properly tight; the throat-band looſiſh, and the mouth-piece neither too high, nor too low in the horſe's mouth,

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mouth, but rightly put ſo as not to wrinkle the ſkin, nor to hang lax; the girts drawn moderately, but not too tight; and the crupper, and the breaſt-plate properly adjuſted. A very good and careful hand may venture on a bit at firſt, and ſucceed with it full as well, as by beginning with a ſnaffle alone: but ſuch a proceeding will require more care, more delicacy, and more time, than can be expected in a corps, whoſe numbers are ſo conſiderable, and where there are ſo few, if any good riders: on colts indeed, it is better in all ſchools whatſoever, to avoid any preſſure on the bars juſt at firſt, which a curb, though ever ſo delicately uſed, muſt in ſome degree occaſion. Whenever any bridles are uſed, they muſt be all the ſame, for though different

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ferent mouths require different ſorts of bits, it is abſolutely neceſſary, that ſome general uniform ſort ſhould be uſed throughout a whole regiment. They ſhould differ only in breadth according to the breadth of each horſe's mouth. There needs no great variety of ſizes for bitting a whole regiment. The beſt I could ever pitch on after repeated trials, is one made after the following drawing. The weight of the whole is about one pound, eight ounces, and a quarter, of which the curb is about eight ounces, and a quarter. The mouth piece is fixed. All ſuch as are not ſo, and move in the joint, have a bad effect. Light thin curbs are bad, and apt, if at all roughly uſed, (a thing very difficult to prevent at all times in ſome people's hands,) to cut, and damage the

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the horſe's mouth very much. This bridle is calculated for light troops. Heavier corps, who have larger horſes, and of another kind, may have the branches an inch longer, and the whole bridle ſomewhat more ſubſtantial. When theſe things have been well looked to, let the man approach the horſe gently near the ſhoulder; then taking the reins and an handful of the mane in his left hand, let him put his foot ſoftly into the left ſtirrup, by pulling it towards him, leaſt he touch the horſe with his toe, (which might frighten him); then raiſing himſelf up, let him reſt a moment on it with his body upright, but not ſtiff: and after that, paſſing his right leg clear over the ſaddle without rubbing againſt any thing, let him ſeat himſelf gently down. He muſt be cautious not to take

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the reins too ſhort, for fear of making the horſe rear, run, or fall back, or throw up his head; but let him hold them of an equal length, neither tight nor ſlack, and with the little finger betwixt them. 'Tis fit that horſes ſhould be accuſtomed to ſtand ſtill to be mounted, and not ſtir till the rider pleaſes. All ſoldiers ſhould be inſtructed to mount and diſmount equally well on both ſides, which may be of very great uſe in times of hurry and confuſion. Then place the man in his ſaddle, with his body rather back, and his head held up with eaſe, without ſtiffneſs; ſeated neither forwards, nor very backwards, with the breaſt puſhed out a little, and the lower part of the body likewiſe a little forwards; the thighs and legs turned in without conſtraint, and the

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the feet in a ſtraight line, neither turned in nor out: By this poſition, the natural weight of the thighs has a proper and ſufficient preſſure of itſelf, and the legs are in readineſs to act, when called upon: they muſt hang down eaſy and naturally, and be ſo placed, as not to be wriggling about, touching and tickling the horſe's ſides; but always near them in caſe they ſhould be wanted, as well as the heels.

The body muſt be carefully kept eaſy and firm, and without any rocking, when in motion; which is a bad habit very eaſily contracted, eſpecially in galloping. The left elbow muſt be gently leant againſt the body, a little forwards; unleſs it be ſo reſted, the hand cannot be ſteady, but will be always checking, and

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and conſequently have pernicious effects on the horſe's mouth: and the hand ought to be of equal height with the elbow; if it were lower, it would conſtrain and confine the motion of the horſe's ſhoulders, which muſt be free. I ſpeak here of the poſition of the hand in general; for as the mouths of horſes are different, the place of the hand alſo muſt occaſionally differ; a leaning, low, heavy fore-hand requires a high hand; and a horſe that pokes out his noſe, a low one. The right hand arm muſt be placed in ſymmetry with the left; only let the right hand be a little forwarder or backwarder, higher or lower, as occaſions may require, in order that both hands may be free: both arms muſt be a little bent at the elbow, to prevent ſtiffneſs.

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A ſoldier's right hand ſhould be kept unemployed in riding; it carries the ſword, which is a ſufficient buſineſs for it: In learning therefore to ride, the men ſhould have a whip or ſwitch in it, and hold it upwards, that they may thereby know how to carry their ſwords properly, keeping it downwards only, when they mount or diſmount, that the horſe may not be frightened at the ſight of it.

There remains one farther obſervation, that ought not to be omitted, about the hand, that it muſt be kept clear of the body; I mean, about two inches and half forwards from it, with the nails turned oppoſite to the belly, and the wriſt a little rounded with eaſe; a poſition nor leſs graceful than ready for

ſlacken-

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ſlackening, tightening, and moving the reins from one ſide to the other, as may be found neceſſary.

A firm and well balanced poſition of the body on horſeback is (as has already been ſaid) of the utmoſt conſequence; as it affects the horſe in every motion, and is the beſt of helps: whereas on the contrary the want of it is the greateſt detriment to him, and an impediment in all his actions. When the men are well placed, the more rough trotting they have without ſtirrups, the better; but with a ſtrict care always, that their poſition be preſerved very exactly. As for thoſe unfeeling fellows, who continue ſticking by their hands, in ſpite of all the teacher's attention to prevent it, nothing remains to be done but to make

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them drop the reins quite on a ſafe-going horſe, and to keep their hands in the ſame poſition, as if they held them. In all caſes without exception, but more eſpecially in this, great care muſt be taken to hinder their clinging with their legs: In ſhort, no ſticking by hands or legs is ever to be allowed of at any time. If the motion of the horſe be too rough, ſlacken it, 'till the rider grows by degrees more firm: and when he is quite firm and eaſy on his horſe in every kind of motion, ſtirrups may be given him; but he muſt never leave off trotting often and working often without any.

The ſtirrups muſt be neither ſhort nor long; but of ſuch a length that when the rider, being well placed, puts his feet into them, (about one third of the

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the length of each foot from the point of it,) the points may be between two and three inches higher than the heels: Longer ſtirrups would make it very difficult for the rider to get his leg over the baggage, forage, cloak, &c. which are faſtened on behind upon the ſaddle: and ſhorter would be bad in every reſpect, and anſwer no end at all. The length I mentioned above, is juſt the right one, and is to be taken in the following method: Make the rider place himſelf upon the ſaddle, even, upright and well, with his legs hanging down and the ſtirrups likewiſe: and when he is in this poſition, take up the ſtirrup, 'till the bottom of it comes juſt under the ankle-bone. The rider muſt not bear upon his ſtirrups, but only let the natural weight of his legs reſt on them: For

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if he bore upon them, he would be raiſed above and out of his ſaddle; which ſhould never be, except in charging ſword in hand, with the body inclined forwards at the very inſtant of attacking. Spurs may be given, as ſoon as the rider is grown familiar with ſtirrups, or even long before, if his legs are well placed.

Delicacy in the uſe of the hands, as well as in the uſe of the legs, may be given by the teacher to a certain degree; but 'tis nature alone that can beſtow that great ſenſibility, without which neither one nor the other can be formed to any great perfection. A hand ſhould be firm, but delicate: a horſe's mouth ſhould never be ſurpriſed by any ſudden tranſition of it, either from ſlack to tight, or from tight to ſlack. Every thing in horſe-

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manſhip muſt be effected by degrees, but at the ſame time with ſpirit and reſolution. That hand, which by giving and taking properly, gains its point with the leaſt force, is the beſt; and the horſe's mouth, under this ſame hand's directions, will alſo conſequently be the beſt, ſuppoſing equal advantages in both from nature. This principle of gentleneſs ſhould be obſerved upon all occaſions in every branch of horſemanſhip. Sometimes the right hand may be neceſſary, upon ſome troubleſome horſes, to aſſiſt the left; but the ſeldomer this is done, the better; eſpecially in a ſoldier, who has a ſword to carry, and to make uſe of.

The ſnaffle muſt on all occaſions be uppermoſt, that is to ſay, the reins of

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it muſt be above thoſe of the bridle, whether the ſnaffle or the bit be uſed ſeparately, or whether they be both uſed together. When the rider knows enough, and the horſe is ſufficiently prepared and ſettled to begin any work towards ſuppling, one rein muſt be ſhortened according to the ſide worked to, (as is explained in its proper place;) but it muſt never be ſo much ſhortened, as to make the whole ſtrength reſt on that rein alone; for, not to mention that the work would be falſe and bad, one ſide of the horſe's mouth would by that means be always deadened; whereas on the contrary, it ſhould always be kept freſh by its own play, and by the help of the oppoſite rein's acting delicately in a ſomewhat ſmaller degree of tenſion; the joint effect of which produces

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produces in a horſe's mouth the proper, gentle, and eaſy degree of *appui* or bearing. Colts indeed, as well as men, at firſt muſt be taught the effect of the reins taken ſeparately; for fear of confounding them in the beginning with mixed effects of them at once.

A coward and a madman make alike bad riders, and are both alike diſcovered and confounded by the ſuperior ſenſe of the creature they are mounted upon, who is equally ſpoilt by both, though in very different ways. The coward, by ſuffering the animal to have his own way, not only confirms him in his bad habits, but creates new ones in him: and the madman, by falſe and violent motions and corrections, drives the horſe, through deſpair, into every

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every bad and vicious trick, that rage can ſuggeſt.

It is very requiſite in horſemanſhip, that the hand and legs ſhould act in correſpondence with each other in every thing; the latter always ſubſervient and aſſiſtant to the former. Upon circles, in walking, trotting, or galloping, (I mean, where nothing more is intended,) the outward leg is the only one to be uſed, and that only for a moment at a time, in order to ſet off the horſe true, or put him right, if he be falſe; and as ſoon as that is done, it muſt be taken away again immediately: but if the horſe be lazy, or otherwiſe retains himſelf, (for he may retain himſelf through tickliſhneſs and ſpirit, and other reaſons alſo,) both legs muſt be uſed, and preſſed

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preſſed to his ſides at the ſame time together. The leſs the legs are uſed in general, the better. Very delicate good riders, with horſes they have dreſſed themſelves, will ſcarcely ever want their help; but that perfection in the feeling of either man, or horſe, is not to be expected in the hurry which can not be avoided in a regimental ſchool, where the numbers are ſo great. By the term outward is underſtood the ſide, which is more remote from the center; and by inward is meant the ſide next to the center. In reining back, the rider ſhould be careful not to uſe his legs, unleſs the horſe backeth on his ſhoulders, in which caſe they muſt be both applied gently at the ſame time, and correſpond with the hand. If the horſe refuſe to back at all, the rider's legs

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legs muſt be gently approached, till the horſe lifts up a leg, as if to go forwards; at which time, when that leg is in the air, the rein of the ſame ſide with that leg, which is lifted up, will eaſily bring that ſame leg backwards, and accordingly oblige the horſe to back: but if the horſe offers to rear, the legs muſt be inſtantly removed away. The inward rein muſt be the tighter on circles, ſo that the horſe may bend and look inwards; and the outward one croſſed over a little towards it; and both held in the left hand, that ſoldiers may not have their right employed, which, as has before been obſerved, muſt be left free for other more neceſſary uſes.

Let the man and horſe begin on very ſlow motions, that they may have time to

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to underſtand, and reflect on what is taught them, in their minds: and in proportion as the effects of the reins are better comprehended, and the manner of working becomes more familiar, the quickneſs of motion muſt be increaſed. Every rider muſt learn to feel, without the help of the eye, when a horſe goes falſe, and remedy the fault accordingly: this is an intelligence, which nothing but practice, application and attention can give, in the beginning on ſlow motions. A horſe may not only gallop falſe, but alſo trot and walk falſe. If a horſe gallops falſe, that is to ſay, if going to the right, he leads with the left leg; or if going to the left, he leads with the right; or in caſe he is diſunited, by which is meant, if he leads with the oppoſite leg behind to that which he leads with

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with before; ſtop him immediately, and put him off again properly: the method of effecting this, is by approaching your outward leg and putting your hand outwards, ſtill keeping the inward rein the ſhorter, and the horſe's head inwards, if poſſible; and if he ſhould ſtill reſiſt, then bend and pull his head outwards alſo, but replace it again, bent properly inwards, the moment he goes off true. The help of the leg in this, and indeed all other caſes, muſt not be made uſe of at all, till that of the hand alone has proved ineffectual. A horſe is ſaid to be diſunited to the right, when going to the right, and conſequently leading with the right leg before, he leads with the left behind; and is ſaid to be diſunited to the left, when going to the left, and conſequently leading with

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with the left leg before, he leads with the right behind. A horſe may at the ſame time be both falſe and diſunited; in correcting both which faults, the ſame method muſt be uſed. He is both falſe and diſunited to the right, when in going to the right he leads with the left leg before, and the right behind; notwithſtanding that hinder leg be with propriety more forward under his belly, than the left, becauſe the horſe is working to the right: and he is falſe and diſunited to the left, when in going to the left, he leads with the right leg before, and the left behind; notwithſtanding, as above, that hinder leg be with propriety more forward under his belly than the right, becauſe the horſe is working to the left.

In

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In teaching men a right ſeat on horſe-back, the greateſt attention muſt be given to prevent ſtiffneſs, and ſticking by force in any manner upon any occaſion: ſtiffneſs diſgraces every right work; and ſticking ſerves only to throw a man (when diſplaced) a great diſtance from his horſe by the ſpring he muſt go off with: whereas by a proper equilibrating poſition of the body, and by the natural weight only of the thighs, he cannot but be firm, and ſecure in his ſeat.

As the men become more firm, and the horſes more ſupple, 'tis proper to make the circles leſs, but not too much ſo, for fear of throwing the horſes forwards upon their ſhoulders.

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No bits ſhould be uſed, 'till the riders are firm, and the horſes bend well to right and left; and then too always with the greateſt care and gentleneſs. Note always, that I have in view a military ſchool, and conſequently on account of its neceſſary hurry, and number of ſcholars, both men and horſes are not the moſt exact and delicate; the nature of it will not admit of their being ſo. The ſilly cuſtom of uſing ſtrong bits is in all good ſchools with reaſon laid aſide, as it ſhould be likewiſe in military riding. They ſerve to harden as much the hand of the rider, as the mouth of the horſe; both which becoming every day more and more inſenſible together, nothing can be expected but a moſt unfeeling callouſneſs both in one and the other. Some

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horſes, when firſt the bit is put into their mouths, if great care be not taken, will put their heads very low. With ſuch horſes, raiſe your right hand with the *bridoon* in it, and play at the ſame time with the bit in the left hand, giving and taking. A ſtrong bit indeed will flatter an ignorant hand juſt at firſt; but it will never any other, nor even an ignorant one for any time together, for the horſe's mouth will ſoon grow callous to it, and unfeeling, and the hand the ſame.

On circles, the rider muſt lean his body inwards; unleſs great attention be given to make him do it, he will be perpetually loſing his ſeat outwards, every rapid or irregular motion the horſe may make. 'Tis ſcarce poſſible for him to be diſplaced

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diſplaced if he leans his body properly inwards.

Inſtructions both to man and horſe in riding are of the greateſt importance and conſequence; as the ſucceſs of actions in a great meaſure depend upon them. Squadrons are frequently broken and defeated through the ignorance of the riders or horſes; but moſt commonly of both together. Many and various are the diſaſters, that ariſe from the horſes not being properly prepared and ſuppled, and from the men not being taught firm ſeats, independent of their hands and the mouths of their horſes. Were the men rightly inſtructed how to keep the mouths of their horſes freſh and obedient, and thereby maintain a cadenced pace, (be

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it ever ſo faſt, or ever ſo ſlow,) ranks would of courſe be always dreſſed, and unſhaken, and conſequently always powerful. The ſtouteſt and by nature the beſt of cavalry is often broken, and thereby rendered inferior far to much weaker and leſs reſpectable bodies than themſelves, for want of being properly informed in the above-mentioned, and ſuch-like particulars. This is a matter worthy of a ſerious inſpection, conſideration and amendment, the neglect of which has upon many occaſions been very fatal. 'Tis to be hoped, that ſome perſon of ſufficient authority and knowledge will contrive to introduce many alterations, that appear very neceſſary in the cavalry. I ſee, for inſtance, no reaſon, why the men ſhould not wear *cuiraſſes*, as it is evident, that many lives would

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would be ſaved by it, eſpecially when they charge infantry; but then the *cuiraſſes* muſt not be made like thoſe, made uſe of at preſent, which ſeldom fit, are heavy and unwieldy, weighing down and fatiguing the wearer exceſſively. To what purpoſe are the men loaded with ſuch monſtrous heavy boots and firelock? a lighter, yet full as ſtrong, and much more ſerviceable boot might be eaſily contrived. A light carabine would ſuit them far better, if any fire-arm at all be thought neceſſary; which, I confeſs, appears not ſo to me, as our dragoons are to all intents and purpoſes cavalry; and ſhould therefore be provided with a good ſword, be well inſtructed in the management of it, and wholely depend upon it. Piſtols indeed may ſometimes be

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neceſſary, but very ſeldom. A hat ſeems to me a ſilly and uſeleſs piece of dreſs in a ſoldier: it is continually falling off, eſpecially in action; nor can it ever ſerve as a protection againſt blows, &c. or bad weather, which are circumſtances of great conſequence: whereas a cap has no inconveniences at all attending it, may be made very ornamental and of a martial appearance, and in ſuch a manner, as to be a good fence againſt blows, rain, ſnow, and ſtormy winds, and alſo convenient to ſleep in.

CHAP.

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CHAP. III.

The method of ſuppling horſes with men upon them, by the EPAULE en dedans, *&c. with and without a* longe, *on circles and on ſtrait lines.*

WHEN a horſe is well prepared and ſettled in all his motions, ('till when nothing more muſt be attempted,) and the rider firm, (which is alſo as abſolutely neceſſary,) it will be proper then to proceed on towards a farther ſuppling and teaching of both. In regiments, eſpecially thoſe that are young, there are but very few, if any tolerable horſemen, which makes the greateſt exactneſs and gentleneſs abſolutely neceſſary in the inſtructing of

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both: and more particularly ſo in this caſe, as horſe and man are both ignorant, and muſt be both alike taught together; which is a difficulty, that does not exiſt in ſchools: for there a young rider is put upon a made, or at leaſt a quiet horſe; nor do any, but able riders, ever mount a raw one.

In ſetting out upon this new work, begin by bringing the horſe's head a little more inwards than before, pulling the inward rein gently to you by degrees. When this is done, try to gain a little on the ſhoulders, by keeping the inward rein the ſhorter, as before, and the outward one croſſed over towards the inward one. The intention of theſe operations is this; the inward rein ſerves to bring in the head, and procures

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procures the bend; whilſt the outward one, that is a little croſſed, tends to make that bend perpendicular, and as it ſhould be, that is to ſay, to reduce the noſe and the forehead to be in a perpendicular line with each other: it alſo ſerves, if put forwards, as well as alſo croſſed, to put the horſe forwards, if found neceſſary, which is often requiſite, many horſes being apt in this, and other works, rather to loſe their ground backwards, than otherwiſe, when they ſhould rather advance: if the noſe were drawn in towards the breaſt beyond the perpendicular, it would confine the motion of the ſhoulders, and have other bad effects. All other bends, beſides what I have above ſpecified, are falſe. The outward rein, being croſſed, not in a forward ſenſe, but rather a little back-

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backwards, ſerves alſo, when neceſſary, to prevent the outward ſhoulder from getting too forwards, and makes it approach the inward one; which facilitates the inward leg's croſſing over the outward one; which is the motion, that ſo admirably ſupples the ſhoulders. Care muſt be taken, that the inward leg paſs over the outward one, without touching it; this inward leg's croſſing over muſt be helped alſo by the inward rein, which you muſt croſs towards and over the outward rein, every time the outward leg comes to the ground, in order to lift and help the inward leg over it: at any other time, but juſt when the outward leg comes to the ground, it would be wrong to croſs the inward rein, or to attempt to lift up the inward leg by it; nay, it would

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would be demanding an abſolute impoſſibility, and lugging about the reins and horſe to no purpoſe; becauſe in this caſe, a very great part of the horſe's weight reſting then upon that leg, would render ſuch an attempt, not only fruitleſs, but alſo prejudicial to the ſenſibility of the mouth, and probably oblige him to defend himſelf: and moreover, it would put the horſe under a neceſſity of ſtraddling before, and alſo of leading with the wrong leg, without being productive of any ſuppling motion whatſoever.

When the horſe is thus far familiarly accuſtomed to what you have required of him, (but by no means before he is entirely ſo,) then proceed to effect by degrees the ſame croſſing in his hinder legs.

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legs. By bringing in the fore-legs more, you will of courſe engage the hinder ones in the ſame work: if they reſiſt, the rider muſt bring both reins more inwards; and, if neceſſary, put back alſo, and approach his inward leg to the horſe; and if the horſe throws out his croup too far, the rider muſt bring both reins outwards, and if abſolutely neceſſary, (but not otherwiſe,) he muſt alſo make uſe of his outward leg, in order to replace the horſe properly; obſerving, that the croup ſhould always be conſiderably behind the ſhoulders, which in all actions muſt go firſt; and the moment that the horſe obeys, the rider muſt put his hand and leg again into their uſual poſition.

Nothing is more ungraceful in itſelf, more

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more detrimental to a man's ſeat, or more deſtructive of the ſenſibility of a horſe's ſides, than a continual wriggling unſettledneſs in a horſeman's legs, which prevents the horſe from ever going a moment together true, ſteady, or determined. 'Tis impoſſible upon the whole for a man to be too firm, ſettled, and gentle. A ſoft motion may be always inforced, if neceſſary, with eaſe; but an harſh one is irrecoverable, and its bad conſequences very often almoſt irreparable.

A horſe ſhould never be turned, without firſt moving a ſtep forwards; and when it is doing, the rider muſt not lift up his elbow, and diſplace himſelf; a motion only of the hand from one ſide to the other being ſufficient for that purpoſe.

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purpoſe. It muſt alſo be a conſtant rule never to ſuffer a horſe to be ſtopped, mounted, or diſmounted, but when he is well placed. The ſlower the motions are, when a man or horſe is taught any thing, the better; for, as I have mentioned before, both the one and the other have time to reflect on the leſſon, and comprehend it more perfectly; but the motion, though ſlow, muſt not be dull or with any heſitation.

At firſt, the figures worked upon muſt be great, and afterwards made leſs by degrees, according to the improvement which the man and horſe make; and the cadenced pace alſo, which they work in, muſt be accordingly augmented. The changes from one ſide to the other, muſt be in a bold determined

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mined trot, and at firſt quite ſtraight forwards, without demanding any ſide motion on two *piſtes*, which is very neceſſary to require afterwards, when the horſe is ſufficiently ſuppled. By two *piſtes* is meant, when the fore parts, and hinder parts do not follow, but deſcribe two different lines.

In the beginning, a *longe* is uſeful on circles, and alſo on ſtraight lines, to help both the rider and the horſe; but afterwards, when they are grown more intelligent, they ſhould go alone. At the end of the leſſon, rein back; and then put the horſe, by a little at a time, forwards, by approaching both legs gently to his ſides, (if neceſſary,) and playing with the bridle: if he rears, puſh him out immediately into a full trot.

Shaking

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Shaking the *caveſſon* on the horſe's noſe, and alſo putting one's ſelf before him and rather near to him, will generally make him back, though he otherwiſe refuſe to do it: and moreover a ſlight uſe and approaching of the rider's legs, will ſometimes be neceſſary in backing, in order to prevent the horſe from doing it too much upon his ſhoulders; but the preſſure of the legs ought to be very ſmall, and taken quite away the moment that he puts himſelf enough upon his haunches. If the horſe does not back upon a ſtraight line properly, the rider muſt not be permitted to have recourſe immediately to his leg, and ſo diſtort himſelf by it, (which is generally practiſed with the common ſort of riding maſters;) but firſt try, if croſſing over his hand and reins to which ever ſide may

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may be neceſſary, will not be alone ſufficient; which moſt frequently it will: if not, then employ the leg.

After a horſe is well prepared, and ſettled, and goes freely on in all his ſeveral paces, he ought to be in all his works kept, to a proper degree, upon his haunches, with his hinder legs well placed under him; whereby he will be always pleaſant to himſelf, and his rider, will be light in hand, and ready to execute whatever may be demanded of him, with facility, vigour and quickneſs.

The common method, that is uſed, of forcing a horſe ſideways, is a moſt glaring abſurdity, and very hurtful to the animal in its conſequences: for inſtead of ſuppling him, it obliges him

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to ſtiffen and defend himſelf, and often makes a creature, that is naturally benevolent, a reſtive, frightened and vicious man-hater for ever. In general, 'tis a maxim as conſtantly to be remembered, as it is true, that it is more difficult to correct faults and bad habits, than to foreſee and prevent them.

For horſes, who have very long and high fore-hands, and who poke out their noſes, a running ſnaffle is of excellent uſe; but for ſuch, as bore and keep their heads low, a common one is preferable; though any horſe's head indeed may be kept up alſo with a running one, by the rider's keeping his hands very high and forwards: but whenever either is uſed alone without a bridle upon horſes that carry their heads

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heads low and that bore, it muſt be ſawed about from one ſide to the other.

As for working a horſe in hand without a rider, I cannot but condemn and reject it: two people indeed in my lifetime, and amongſt the many I have obſerved, but only two did I ever ſee, who have ſucceeded in it; the one, Sir *Sidney Meadows*, to a ſurprizing degree; and another gentleman abroad, Cavalier *Roſſermini*, at *Piſa*.

This leſſon of the *epaule en dedans*, I would only have taught to ſuch people, as are likely to become uſeful in helping to teach men and to break horſes; and the more of ſuch, that can be found, the better: none others ſhould ever be ſuffered upon any occaſion to let their

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horſes look any way, beſides the way they are going, which is a very rare thing now to be ſeen in moſt regiments. But all horſes whatever, as likewiſe all men, who are deſigned for the teaching others, muſt go thoroughly and perfectly through this excellent leſſon, under the directions of intelligent inſtructors, and often practiſe it too afterwards, (which indeed they ought to do every other leſſon that is given them;) and when that is done, proceed to, and be finiſhed by the leſſons of the head and tail to the wall.

It would ſcarce be poſſible, (neither is it at all neceſſary,) to teach the many more difficult and refined parts of horſemanſhip, to the different kinds and diſpoſitions, both of men and horſes, which

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which one meets with in a regiment; or to give the time and attention, requiſite for it, to ſuch numbers. The riding money that is allowed, if rightly diſpoſed of, is full ſufficient to procure and properly pay deſerving and intelligent teachers; and moreover, a ſadler and gunſmith, who are abſolutely neceſſary to every troop. The beſt method would be to qualify as many quarter-maſters as poſſible for riders; and under each, one rough rider, and one lance rough rider at leaſt for every troop. One man ſhould have more pay than the reſt, and be an inſtructor to the whole regiment, going about from one quarter to another, and from troop to troop; and it ſhould be part of his duty alſo to give leſſons to the officers, (as likewiſe to break their horſes;) who, I

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am ſorry to ſay it, are, (many of them at leaſt,) when on horſeback, a diſgrace, not only to themſelves, but to the animals they ride on.

This leſſon, as indeed almoſt all others, ought to be practiſed on all figures, on circles, ſtraight lines, and ſquares, &c. when on this laſt, which is an excellent leſſon, (as alſo in every leſſon and on all figures, where corners or angles are worked on,) care muſt be taken concerning the ſhoulders and croup, that, which ever of them is to enter the corner, it may go quite into it; and if both of them are to do it, that both may go in like manner perfectly in; and let that, which goes in the ſecond of the two, follow exactly the road of the preceding one.

CHAP.

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CHAP. IV.

Of the head to the wall, and of the croup to the wall.

THIS leſſon ſhould be practiſed immediately after that of the *epaule en dedans*, in order to place the horſe properly the way he goes, &c. The difference between the head to the wall, and the croup to the wall, conſiſts in this: in the former, the fore-parts are more remote from the center, and go over more ground; in the latter, the hinder-parts are more remote from the center, and conſequently go over more ground: in both, as likewiſe in all other leſſons, the ſhoulders muſt go firſt. In riding-houſes, the head to the wall

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is the eaſier leſſon of the two at firſt, the line to be worked upon being marked by the wall, not far from his head. All leſſons ought to be frequently varied to prevent routine.

The motion of the legs in the leſſon we are ſpeaking of, to the right, is the ſame, as that of the *epaule en dedans* to the left, and ſo vice versâ; but the head is always bent and turned differently: in the *epaule en dedans*, the horſe looks the contrary way, to that which he goes; in this he looks the way he is going.

In the beginning, very little bend muſt be required; too much at once would aſtoniſh the horſe and make him defend himſelf: it is to be augmented by degrees. If the horſe abſolutely refuſes

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fuſes to obey, it is a ſign, that either he or his rider has not been ſufficiently prepared by previous leſſons. It may happen, that weakneſs or a hurt in ſome part of the body, or ſometimes temper, though ſeldom, (in the horſe I mean,) may be the cauſe of the horſe's defending himſelf: 'tis the rider's buſineſs to find out from whence the obſtacle ariſes; and if he finds it to be from the firſt mentioned cauſe, the previous leſſons muſt be reſumed again for ſome time; if from the ſecond, proper remedies muſt be applied; and if from the laſt cauſe, when all fair means that can be tried, have failed, proper corrections with coolneſs and judgment muſt be uſed.

In practiſing this leſſon to the right, bend

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bend the horſe to the right with the right rein; helping the left leg over the right (at the time when the right leg is juſt come to the ground,) with the left rein croſſed towards the right, and keeping the right ſhoulder back with the right rein towards your body, in order to facilitate the left leg's croſſing over the right; and ſo likewiſe vice versâ to the left, each rein helping the other by their properly-mixed effects. In working to the right, the rider's left leg helps the hinder parts on to the right, and his right leg ſtops them, if they get too forwards; and ſo vice versâ to the left; but neither ought to be uſed, 'till the hand, being employed, (as has been before explained,) in a proper manner, has failed; or finds, that a greater force is neceſſary to bring what

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what is required, about, than it can effect alone; for the legs ſhould not only be correſponding with, but alſo ſubſervient to the hand; and all unneceſſary aids, as well as all force, ought always to be avoided, as much as poſſible.

In the execution of all leſſons, the equilibre of the rider's body is of great uſe, eaſe and help to the horſe: it ought always to go with and accompany every motion of the animal; when to the right, to the right; and when to the left, to the left; if it does not, it is a very great hindrance to the horſe's going.

This leſſon is perpetually of ſervice; for example, in all openings and cloſings of

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of files: and though it be chiefly employed on ſtraight lines, nevertheleſs it muſt be practiſed, advancing, retreating, turning, &c. as it may be of eſſential uſe almoſt in all caſes whatever: it muſt be practiſed too in all paces, very faſt as well as very ſlow, but of courſe gently at firſt; and changes alſo from one hand to the other muſt frequently be made. 'Tis natural to imagine, that ſome horſes, as well as ſome men, will be found more or leſs intelligent, active, and ſupple, than others; and accordingly more or leſs is to be demanded and expected from them. This and all other leſſons are to be performed with or without a *longe*; as may be found needful.

Upon all horſes in every leſſon and action,

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action, it must be observed, that there is no horse but has his own peculiar *appui* or degree of bearing, and also a sensibility of mouth, as likewise a rate of his own, which it is absolutely necessary for the rider to discover and make himself acquainted with. A bad rider always takes off at least the delicacy of both, if not absolutely destroys it, which is generally the case. The horse will inform his rider when he has got his proper bearing in the mouth, by playing pleasantly and steadily with his bit, and by the spray about his chaps. A delicate and good hand will not only always preserve a light *appui*, or bearing, in its sensibility, but also of a heavy one, whether naturally so or acquired, make a light one. The lighter this *appui* can be made, the better; provided

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vided that the rider's hand corre-ſponds with it; if it does not, the more the horſe is properly prepared, ſo much the worſe. Inſtances of this inconvenience of the beſt of *appui's*, when the rider is not equally taught with the horſe, may be ſeen every day in ſome gentlemen, who try to get their horſes bitted, as they call it, (which now and then, though very rarely, they get done to ſome degree,) without being ſuitably prepared themſelves for riding them: the conſequence of which is, that they ride in danger of breaking their necks; 'till at length after much hauling about, and by the joint inſenſibility and ignorance of themſelves and their grooms, the poor animals gradually become mere ſenſeleſs, unfeeling poſts; and thereby grow, what they call, ſettled.

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When the proper *appui* is found, and made of courſe as light as poſſible, it muſt not be kept dully fixed without any variation, but be played with; otherwiſe one equally continued tenſion of reins would render both the rider's hand, and the horſe's mouth very dull. The ſlighteſt, and frequent giving, and taking, is therefore neceſſary to keep both perfect.

Whatever pace or degree of quickneſs you work in, (be it ever ſo faſt, or ever ſo ſlow,) it muſt be cadenced; time is as neceſſary for an horſeman as for a muſician.

This leſſon of the head and of the tail to the wall, muſt be taught every ſoldier: ſcarce any manœuvre can be well

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well performed without it. In closing and opening of files, it is almost every moment wanted. Few regimental riding masters either practise it right, teach it right, or know it right, but act by force only, and make the horse look the wrong way. It is a great detriment to the service, that so few of the teachers are instructed on true, and useful principles of horsemanship.

CHAP.

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CHAP. V.

The method of teaching horſes to ſtand fire, noiſes, alarms, ſights, &c.---of preventing their lying down in water----to ſtand quiet to be ſhot off from----to go over rough and bad ground----to leap hedges, gates, ditches, &c. ſtanding and flying---to diſregard dead horſes--- to ſwim, &c.

IN order to make horſes ſtand fire, the ſound of drums and all ſorts of different noiſes, you muſt uſe them to it by degrees in the ſtable at feeding-time; and inſtead of being frightened at it, they will ſoon come to like it, as a ſignal for eating.

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With regard to ſuch horſes, as are afraid of burning objects, begin by keeping them ſtill at a certain diſtance from ſome lighted ſtraw: careſs the horſe, and in proportion as his fright diminiſhes, approach gradually the burning-ſtraw very gently, and increaſe the ſize of it. By this means he will very quickly be brought to be ſo familiar with it, as to walk undaunted even through it. The ſame method and gentleneſs muſt be obſerved alſo, in regard to glittering arms, colours, ſtandards, &c.

As to horſes that are apt to lie down in the water, if animating them, and attacking them vigorouſly ſhould fail of the deſired effect, (which ſeldom is the caſe,) then break a ſtraw-bottle full of

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of water upon their heads, and let the water run into their ears, which is a thing they apprehend very much.

All troop-horſes muſt be taught to ſtand quiet and ſtill when they are ſhot off from, to ſtop the moment you preſent, and not to move after firing, 'till they are required to do it; this leſſon ought eſpecially to be obſerved in light-troops; in ſhort, the horſes muſt be taught to be ſo cool and undiſturbed, as to ſuffer the rider to act upon him with the ſame freedom, as if he was on foot. Patience, coolneſs and temper are the only means requiſite for accompliſhing this end. Begin by walking the horſe gently, then ſtop and keep him from ſtirring for ſome time, ſo as to accuſtom him by degrees not to have the leaſt

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idea of moving without orders: if he does, then back him; and when you ſtop him, and he is quite ſtill, leave the reins quite looſe.

To uſe a horſe to fire-arms, firſt put a piſtol or carabine in the manger with his feed; then uſe him to the ſound of the lock and the pan; after which, when you are upon him, ſhew the piece to him, preſenting it forwards, ſometimes on one ſide, ſometimes on the other: when he is thus far reconciled, proceed to flaſh in the pan; after which, put a ſmall charge into the piece, and ſo continue augmenting it by degrees to the quantity which is commonly uſed: if he ſeems uneaſy, walk him forwards a few ſteps ſlowly; and then ſtop, back and careſs him. Horſes are often alſo diſquieted

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diſquieted and unſteady at the claſh, and drawing, and returning of ſwords, all which they muſt be familiarized to by little and little, by frequency and gentleneſs.

In going over rough and bad ground, the men muſt keep their hands high, and their bodies back.

It is very expedient for all cavalry, in general, but particularly for light cavalry, that their horſes ſhould be very ready and expert in leaping over ditches, hedges, gates, &c. The leaps, of whatever ſort they are, which the horſes are brought to in the beginning, ought to be very ſmall ones; the riders muſt keep their bodies back, raiſe their hands a little in order to help the fore-

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parts of the horſe up, and be very attentive to their equilibre. 'Tis beſt to begin at a low bar covered with furze, which pricking the horſe's legs, if he does not raiſe himſelf ſufficiently, prevents his contracting a ſluggiſh and dangerous habit of touching, as he goes over, which any thing yielding and not pricking, would give him a cuſtom of doing. Let the ditches you firſt bring horſes to, be narrow; and in this, as in every thing elſe, let the increaſe be made by degrees. Accuſtom them to come up to every thing, which they are to leap over, and to ſtand coolly at it for ſome time; and then to raiſe themſelves gently up in order to form to themſelves an idea of the diſtance. When they leap well ſtanding, then uſe them to walk gently up to the leap, and to go over

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over it without firſt halting at it; and after that practice is familiar to them, repeat the like in a gentle trot, and ſo by degrees faſter and faſter, 'till at length it is as familiar to them to leap flying on a full gallop, as any other way: all which is to be acquired with great facility by calm and ſoft means without any hurry.

As horſes are naturally apt to be frightened at the ſight and ſmell of dead horſes, numbers of which are every moment met with on ſervice, (eſpecially at the latter end of the year, when the roads are bad, and the poor animals, too often treated and driven cruelly, go a great way from camp for forage,) it is adviſable to habituate them to walk over, and leap over carcaſſes of dead

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horſes; and as they are particularly terrified at this ſight, the greater gentleneſs ought conſequently to be uſed in breaking them of their dread of it.

Horſes ſhould alſo be accuſtomed to ſwim, which often may be neceſſary upon ſervice; and if the men and horſes both are not uſed to it, both may be frequently liable to periſh in the water. A very ſmall portion of ſtrength is ſufficient to guide a horſe, any where indeed, but particularly in the water, where they muſt be permitted to have their heads, and be no ways conſtrained in any ſhape.

The heavy cavalry may poſſibly object to having their large horſes taught all theſe ſeveral exerciſes: but though they

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they are not, nor can indeed be expected to perform all, with the ſame activity and velocity, as light troops do, yet 'tis abſolutely neceſſary, that they ſhould be taught them all: for 'tis a melancholy conſideration, that any trifling obſtacle ſhould prevent ſo uſeful and powerful a body from acting.

The unreaſonable rage in England of cutting off all extremities from horſes, is in all caſes a very pernicious cuſtom. It is particularly ſo in regard to a troop-horſe's tail. It is almoſt incredible, how much they ſuffer at the picket for want of it: conſtantly fretting, and ſweating, kicking about and laming one another, tormented, and ſtung off their meat, miſerable, and helpleſs, whilſt other horſes, with their

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tails on, bruſh off all flies, are cool, and at their eaſe, and mend daily, whilſt the dock'd ones grow every hour more and more out of condition. On duty, and marches, the tails may be tied up without any trouble, and look very well. Even a common nag tail, eſpecially if ſuffered to grow a little long, would protect the horſe very much.

CHAP.

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CHAP. VI.

The method of reining back—and of moving forwards immediately after—of piafing—of pillars, &c.

SOMETHING having already been ſaid in the chapter of ſuppling, *&c.* upon the ſubject of reining back, there will not be occaſion to dwell much upon it here, as the reader may have recourſe to that chapter. Never finiſh your work by reining back with horſes, that have any diſpoſition towards retaining themſelves; but always move them forwards and a little upon the haunches alſo after it, before you diſmount, (unleſs they retain themſelves very much indeed, in which caſe nothing at all muſt

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muſt be demanded from the haunches.) This leſſon of reining back, and piafing, is excellent to conclude with, and puts an horſe well and properly on the haunches: It may be done, according as horſes are more or leſs ſuppled, either going forwards, backing, or in the ſame place: if 'tis done well advancing, or at moſt, on the ſame ſpot, it is full ſufficient for a ſoldier's horſe: For to piafe in backing, is rather too much to be expected in the hurry, which cannot but attend ſuch numbers both of men and horſes, as muſt be taught together in regiments. This leſſon muſt never be attempted at all, 'till horſes are very well ſuppled, and ſomewhat accuſtomed to be put together; otherwiſe it will have very bad conſequences, and create reſtiveneſs; infallibly ſo, if not

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not practiſed with the utmoſt exactneſs and delicacy; and principally with horſes, that have the leaſt tendency to retain, or to defend themſelves. If they refuſe to back, and ſtand motionleſs, the rider's legs muſt be approached with the greateſt gentleneſs to the horſe's ſides; at the ſame time as the hand is acting on the reins to ſolicite the horſe's backing. This ſeldom fails of procuring the deſired effect, by raiſing one of the horſe's fore legs, which being in the air, has no weight upon it, and is conſequently very eaſily brought backwards by a ſmall degree of tenſion in the reins. When this leſſon is well performed, it is very noble, and uſeful, and has a pleaſing air; it is an excellent one to begin teaching ſcholars with. In regiments, at their firſt being

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raiſed, when all horſes are brought in young and raw, there can of courſe be no horſes ready prepared in it for this purpoſe; but a little time and diligence remedies this inconvenience.

The leſſon, we are ſpeaking of, is particularly ſerviceable in the pillars, for placing ſcholars well at firſt. Very few regimental riding-houſes have pillars, and I muſt ſay, that it is fortunate they have not; for, though when properly made uſe of with ſkill, they are one of the greateſt and beſt diſcoveries in horſemanſhip; they muſt be allowed to be very dangerous and pernicious, when they are not under the direction of a very knowing perſon. Upon the whole, however highly I approve of pillars, I would on no account admit of any,

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any, unleſs conſtantly under the eye and attention of a very intelligent teacher; which is a thing ſo difficult to be found in regiments, that I think pillars are better baniſhed from amongſt them, and therefore ſhall ſay no more here of what I eſteem nevertheleſs ſo much. As for the ſingle pillar, it is a very uſeleſs and ridiculous thing; and being, as I hope and believe, univerſally laid aſide, I think it not worth making further mention of here.

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CHAP. VII.

The method of curing reſtiveneſſes, vices, defences, ſtarting, &c.

BEFORE any mention is made of the different kinds of reſtiveneſſes, vices, and defences, &c. it is not amiſs to obſerve, that a horſe's being good or ill-natured, greatly depends on the temper of the perſon, that is put about him, eſpecially at firſt; and conſequently one cannot be too careful and watchful in this point.

Whenever a horſe makes reſiſtance, one ought, before a remedy or correction is thought of, to examine very minutely all the tackle about him, if any

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any thing hurts or tickles him, whether he has any natural or accidental weakneſs, or in ſhort any the leaſt impediment in any part. For want of this precaution, and previous inſpection, many fatal, and often irreparable diſaſters happen: the poor dumb animal is frequently accuſed falſely of being reſtive and vitious; is uſed ill without reaſon, and being forced into deſpair, is, in a manner, obliged to act accordingly, be his temper and inclination ever ſo well diſpoſed. A horſe that is vitious and alſo ſo weak, that there are no hopes of his growing ſtronger, is a moſt deplorable beaſt, and not worth any one's care or trouble: 'tis very ſeldom, (I was near ſaying, never) the caſe, that a horſe is really, and by nature vitious; but if ſuch

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be found, he will deſpiſe all careſſes, and then chaſtiſements become neceſſary.

Correction, according as you uſe it, throws a horſe into more or leſs violent action, which, if he be weak, he cannot ſupport: but a vitious ſtrong horſe is to be conſidered in a very different light, being able both to undergo and conſequently to profit by all leſſons; and is, in every reſpect, far preferable to the beſt-natured weak one upon earth. Patience and ſcience are never-failing means to reclaim ſuch a horſe: in whatſoever manner he defends himſelf, bring him back frequently with gentleneſs, (not however without having given him proper chaſtiſement, if neceſſary,) to the leſſon which he ſeems

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moſt averſe to. Horſes are by degrees made obedient, through the hope of recompence and the fear of puniſhment: how to mix theſe two motives judiciouſly together, is a very difficult matter, not eaſy to be preſcribed; it requires much thought and practice; and not only a good head, but a good heart likewiſe. The cooleſt, and beſt natured rider, cæteris paribus, will always ſucceed beſt. By a dextrous uſe of the incitements abovementioned, you will gradually bring the horſe to temper and obedience; mere force and want of ſkill and of coolneſs, would only tend to confirm him in bad tricks. If he be impatient or choleric, never ſtrike him, unleſs he abſolutely refuſes to go forwards; which you muſt reſolutely oblige him to do, and which will be of

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itſelf a correction, by preventing his having time to meditate, and put in execution any defence by retaining himſelf. Reſiſtance in horſes, you muſt conſider, is ſometimes a mark of ſtrength and vigour, and proceeds from ſpirits, as well as ſometimes from vice and weakneſs. Weakneſs frequently drives horſes into vitiouſneſs, when any thing, wherein ſtrength is neceſſary, is demanded from them; nay, it inevitably muſt: great care therefore ſhould always be taken to diſtinguiſh from which of theſe two cauſes, that are evidently ſo different, the defence ariſes, before any remedy or puniſhment is thought of. It may ſometimes be a bad ſign, when horſes do not at all defend themſelves, and proceed from a ſluggiſh diſpoſition, a want of ſpirit, and of a proper

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proper ſenſibility. Whenever one is ſo fortunate as to meet with a horſe of juſt the right ſpirit, activity, delicacy of feeling, with ſtrength, and good-nature, he cannot be cheriſhed too much; for ſuch a one is a rare and ineſtimable jewel, and if properly treated, will, in a manner, do every thing of himſelf. Horſes are oftener ſpoilt by having too much done to them, and by attempts to dreſs them in too great an hurry, than by any other treatment.

If after a horſe has been well ſuppled, and there are no impediments, either natural or accidental, if he ſtill perſiſts to defend himſelf, chaſtiſements then become neceſſary: but whenever this is the caſe, they muſt not be frequent, but always firm, though always as little vio-

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lent, as poſſible: for they are both dangerous and very prejudicial, when frequently or ſlightly played with; and ſtill more ſo, when uſed too violently.

'Tis impoſſible in general to be too circumſpect in leſſons of all kinds, in aids, chaſtiſements or careſſes; for, as the great D. of Newcaſtle obſerves, if any man was in the form of a horſe, he could not invent with more art, than ſome horſes do, ſchemes to oppoſe what is required of him. Some have quicker parts, and more cunning, than others. Many will imperceptibly gain a little every day on their rider. Various in ſhort are their diſpoſitions, and capacities. It is the rider's buſineſs to find out their different qualities, and to make them ſenſible, how much he loves them,

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them, and desires to be loved by them, but at the same time, that he does not fear them, and will be master.

Plunging is a very common defence among restive and vitious horses: if they do it in the same place, or backing, they must by the rider's legs and spurs firmly applied, be obliged to go forwards, and their heads kept up high. But if they do it flying forwards, keep them back, and ride them gently and very slow for a good while together. Of all bad tempers and qualities in horses, those, which are occasioned by harsh treatment and ignorant riders, which are very common, are the worst.

Rearing is a bad vice, and, in weak horses especially, a very dangerous one.

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Whilſt the horſe is up, the rider muſt yield his hand, and when the horſe is deſcending, he muſt vigorouſly determine him forwards: if this be done at any other time, but whilſt the horſe is coming down, it may add a ſpring to his rearing, and make him fall backwards. With a good hand on them, horſes ſeldom perſiſt in this vice; for they are themſelves naturally much afraid of falling backwards. If this method, which I have mentioned, fails, (which it ſcarcely ever will,) you muſt make the horſe kick up behind, by getting ſomebody on foot to ſtrike him behind with a whip; or, if that will not effect it, by pricking him with a goad.

Starting often proceeds from a defect in the ſight; which therefore muſt be care-

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carefully looked into. Whatever the horſe is afraid of, bring him up to it gently; if you careſs him every ſtep he advances, he will go quite up to it by degrees, and ſoon grow familiar with all ſorts of objects. Nothing but great gentleneſs can correct this fault: for if you inflict puniſhment, the apprehenſion of chaſtiſement becomes prevalent, and cauſes more ſtarting, than the fear of the object. If you let him go by the object, without bringing him up to it, you increaſe the fault and confirm him in his fear: the conſequence of which is, he takes his rider perhaps a quite contrary way from what he was going, becomes his maſter, and puts himſelf and the perſon upon him, every moment in great danger. I have ſo often heard people maintain, ſome,

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ſome, that blows are neceſſary to cure this evil; and others, that horſes ſhould be ſuffered to have their own way in it; that I could not help ſaying a few words upon this ſubject, (though it ſpeaks for itſelf,) to convince thoſe, who, as my ingenious friend Mr. *Bourgelat* ſays, *argumentent de ces ſyſtemes deplorables.*

Many troop horſes, and particularly old ones, often do not chuſe to leave their companions. They ſhould therefore be uſed early, and frequently to leave their ranks ſingly.

With ſuch horſes, as are to a very great degree fearful of any objects, make a quiet horſe, by going before them, gradually entice them to approach nearer and

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and nearer to the thing they are afraid of. If the horſe, thus alarmed, be undiſciplined and head-ſtrong, he will probably run away with his rider; and if ſo, his head muſt be kept up high, and the ſnaffle ſawed backwards and forwards from right to left, taking up and yielding the reins of it, as alſo the reins of the bit: but this latter muſt not be ſawed backwards and forwards, like the ſnaffle, but only taken up, and yielded properly. No man ever yet did, or ever will ſtop a horſe, or gain any one point over him, by main force, or by pulling a dead weight againſt him.

CHAP.

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CHAP. VIII.

Several remarks and hints on ſhoeing, feeding, management of horſes, &c. &c.

I Do not by any means intend to enter here largely on a ſyſtem of ſhoeing. As feet differ, ſo ſhould ſhoes accordingly. As it happens unfortunately for us, that the farriers belonging to the cavalry for want of proper education, due inſpection, and encouragement, are void of all real ſkill, and knowledge in their profeſſion, and have minds, in ſhort, quite uncultivated, it is abſolutely neceſſary to lay down only ſuch rules, as are plain, general and invariable, and the ſtricteſt diſcipline muſt be enforced to make them all

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obſerved and followed moſt religiouſly. I do not however deſpair of ſeeing in time ſome intelligent farriers properly inſtructed; and when ſuch are formed, and not till then, the number of them in regiments ſhould be increaſed: It would be much better to have none at all, till ſuch a reformation is brought about. One man cannot properly ſhoe more than forty horſes; at preſent we have only one to a troop of fifty-five, beſides bat-horſes, and all others belonging to officers, ſutlers, carriages, ſervants, &c. There ſhould alſo be one forge-cart at leaſt appropriated to each ſquadron, and a third for the latter-mentioned purpoſes: But they muſt not be like our preſent ones, which are made ſo heavy and with ſuch low wheels, that they employ a great number of horſes, ruin

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ruin moſt of them, and after all, ſeldom get up to their reſpective regiments in right time, even in good roads, and never in bad ones. And I may ſay, that 'tis lucky they do not, for upon experience one finds fewer horſes lame, during the abſence of farriers, than when they are preſent. They ſhould be built upon two wheels only, and thoſe very high: The cart muſt be covered, and have partitions in it for the forge, bellows, tools, char-coal, &c. All theſe things muſt be ſo contrived, as to be eaſily taken out of the cart, and worked on the ground. This ſort of forge-cart never ſticks, and is always able to keep up with the regiments on any marches: It requires but few horſes, and ſpoils none. I have one for my own uſe, made by the Hanoverian train, which

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is drawn eaſily by two horſes. For regiments, the carts muſt be ſomewhat larger, and more ſubſtantial, and would need three horſes. I doubt not, but an Engliſh workman would improve upon them, as to ſtrength and lightneſs, as well as convenience; tho' the cart I have, is very well conſtructed, and anſwers well every neceſſary purpoſe.

Phyſick and a butteris in well-informed hands would not be fatal; but in the manner we are now provided with farriers, they muſt be quite baniſhed. Whoever at preſent lets his farrier, groom, or coachman, in conſideration of his having ſwept dung out of the ſtables for a greater or leſs number of years, ever even mention any thing more than water-gruel, a clyſter, or a little

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little bleeding, and that too very ſeldom; or pretend to talk of the nature of feet, of the ſeat of lameneſſes, ſickneſſes, or their cures, may be certain to find himſelf very ſhortly quite on foot, and fondly arms an abſurd and inveterate enemy againſt his own intereſt. It is incredible what tricking knaves moſt ſtable-people are, and what daring attempts they will make to gain an aſcendant over their maſters, in order to have their own fooliſh projects complied with. In ſhoeing, for example, I have more than once known, that, for the ſake of eſtabliſhing their own ridiculous and pernicious ſyſtem, when their maſters have differed from it, they have, on purpoſe, lamed horſes, and imputed the fault to the ſhoes, after having in vain tried, by every ſort of in-

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invention and lies, to discredit the use of them. How can the method of such people be commendable, whose arguments, as well as practice, are void of common sense? If your horse's foot be bad and brittle, they advise you to cover it with a very heavy shoe; the consequence of which proceeding is evident: For how should the foot, which before could scarce carry itself, be able afterwards to carry such an additional weight, which is stuck on moreover with a multitude of nails, the holes of which tear and weaken the hoof? If the foot is cut or hurt, one doctor says, load it, by way of cover, with all you can: His conceited opponent as wisely counsels you, to let the horse walk bare upon the sore. The only system all these simpletons seem to agree in, is to

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ſhoe in general with exceſſive heavy, and clumſy ill-ſhaped ſhoes and very many nails, to the total deſtruction of the foot. The cramps they annex, tend to deſtroy the bullet, and the ſhoes made in the ſhape of a walnut-ſhell, prevent the horſe's walking upon the firm baſis, which God has given him for that end, and thereby oblige him to ſtumble and fall. They totally pare away alſo, and lay bare the inſide of the animal's foot with their deteſtable butteris, and afterwards put on very long ſhoes, whereby the foot is hindered from having any preſſure at all upon the heels, which preſſure otherwiſe might ſtill perchance, notwithſtanding their dreadful cutting, keep the heels properly open, and the foot in good order. The frog ſhould never be cut out;

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out; but as it will ſometimes become ragged, it muſt be cleaned every now and then, and the ragged pieces cut off with a knife. In one kind of foot indeed a conſiderable cutting away muſt be allowed of, but not of the frog; I mean that very high feet muſt be cut down to a proper height; becauſe if they were not, the frog, tho' not cut, would ſtill be ſo far above the ground, as not to have any bearing on it, whereby the great tendon muſt inevitably be damaged, and conſequently the horſe would go lame.

The weight of ſhoes muſt greatly, wholely indeed, depend on the quality and hardneſs of the iron. If the iron be very good, it will not bend; and in this caſe, the ſhoes cannot poſſibly be

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made too light: care however muſt be taken, that they be of a thickneſs ſo as not to bend; for, bending would force out the nails, and ruin the hoof. That part of the ſhoe, which is next the horſe's heel, muſt be narrower than any other, (as is ſeen in the draught,) that ſtones may be thereby prevented from getting under it, and ſticking there; which otherwiſe would be the caſe; becauſe the iron, when it advances inwardly beyond the bearing of the foot, forms a cavity, wherein ſtones being lodged would remain; and, by preſſing againſt the foot, lame the horſe. The part of the ſhoe, which the horſe walks upon, ſhould be quite flat, and the inſide of it likewiſe; only juſt ſpace enough being left next the foot, to put in a picker, (which ought to be uſed every time

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time the horſe comes into the ſtable, and often on marches,) and alſo to prevent the ſhoe's preſſing upon the ſole. Four nails on each ſide, hold better than a greater number, and keep the hoof in a far better ſtate. The toe of the horſe muſt be cut ſhort, and nearly ſquare, (the angles only juſt rounded off,) nor muſt any nails be driven there; this method prevents much ſtumbling, eſpecially in deſcents, and ſerves by throwing nouriſhment to the heels, to ſtrengthen them; on them the horſe ſhould in ſome meaſure walk, and the ſhoe be made of a proper length accordingly: by this means, narrow heels are prevented, and many other good effects produced. Many people drive a nail at the toe, but it is an abſurd practice. Leaving room to drive one

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there cauſes the foot to be of an improper length, and moreover that part of the hoof is naturally ſo brittle, that, even when it is kept well greaſed, the nail there ſeldom ſtays in, but tears out, and damages the hoof. That my directions for ſhoeing a proper length may be the more clear and intelligible, I have annexed a draught of a foot ſhoed of a proper length ſtanding on a plain ſurface, and with it a draught of the right kind of ſhoe.

In wet, ſpungy, and ſoft ground, where the foot ſinks in, the preſſure upon the heels is of courſe greater, than on hard ground; and ſo indeed it ſhould be upon all accounts. The hinder feet muſt be treated in the ſame manner as the fore-ones; and the ſhoes the ſame:

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ſame: except in hilly and ſlippery countries, they may not improperly be turned up a little behind: but turning up the fore-ſhoes is, I am convinced, of no ſervice, and is certain ruin to the fore-legs, eſpecially to the bullets. In deſcending hills, cramps are apt to throw horſes down, by ſtopping the fore-legs, out of their proper baſis and natural bearing, when the hinder ones are rapidly preſſed; which unavoidably muſt be the caſe, and conſequently cannot but puſh the horſe upon his noſe. With them on a plain ſurface, a horſe's foot is always thrown forwards on the toe, out of its proper bearing, which is very liable to make the horſe ſtumble. The notion of their utility in going up hills is a falſe one. In aſcending, the toe is the firſt part of the foot, which

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bears on, and takes hold of the ground, whether the horſe draws, or carries, and conſequently the buſineſs is done, before the part, where the cramps are, comes to the ground. Ice nails are preferable to any thing to prevent ſlipping, as alſo to help horſes up hill, the moſt forward ones taking hold of the ground early, conſiderably before the heels touch the ground: they muſt be ſo made, as to be, when driven in, ſcarce half inch above the ſhoe, and alſo have four ſides ending at the top in a point. They are of great ſervice to prevent ſlipping on all kinds of places, and by means of them an horſe is not thrown out of his proper baſis. They muſt be made of very good iron. If they are not, the heads of them will be perpetually breaking off, which will

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not happen, if the iron is good, and the nails are well made. By putting a freſh one every now and then on each ſide of the ſhoe, all wiſhed-for ends are obtained, and no bad effects enſue. I know that I am fighting againſt a very ſtrong, though a very unreaſonable prejudice. Let this be tried only, and compared fairly on experience with others; and not immediately laid aſide, if, in ſlippery weather, a horſe thus ſhod ſhould now and then ſlip. In ſome weather, and on ſome ground any horſe any how ſhod may ſometimes chance to fall. There is unluckily no abſolute ſpecifick againſt accidental falling in any ſhoes yet diſcovered. I have tried all methods, and find the above mentioned one the neareſt to perfection: This ſort of ſhoe and nails when well

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well made and fixed properly, being the firmeſt baſis, and beſt hold I ever knew. I do not recommend ice nails at all times. In certain weather, (the greateſt part of the year indeed,) the ground is in a condition, which does not require any. From the race horſe to the cart horſe, the ſame ſyſtem of ſhoeing ſhould be obſerved. The ſize, thickneſs and weight of them only ſhould differ. The ſhoe of a race horſe muſt of courſe be lighter than that of a ſaddle horſe; that of a ſaddle horſe lighter than that of a coach or bât horſe; and theſe laſt more ſo than a cart, waggon, or artillery horſe. At preſent all ſhoes in general are too *heavy*; if the iron is good, ſhoes need not be ſo thick, as they are now generally made. The utmoſt ſeverity ought to be inflicted

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flicted upon all thoſe who clap ſhoes on hot: This unpardonable lazineſs of farriers in making feet thus fit ſhoes, inſtead of ſhoes fitting feet, dries up the hoofs, and utterly deſtroys them. The ſhoes in England at preſent, that are contrived with the moſt ſenſe, are what they call plates for the race horſes at Newmarket: I do not ſay, that they are perfect, but they are nearer the truth, than any others I know; nor are they ſubſtantial enough for common uſe, tho' ſufficiently ſo for the turf.

'Tis ſtrange, that there ſhould be ſo many ridiculous and abſurd methods of ſhoeing; when 'tis ſo manifeſt, that a ſmall ſhare of common ſenſe with a moment's reflection upon the ſtructure of a horſe's foot, cannot but ſuggeſt the proper

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proper one. Frequent removals of ſhoes are detrimental and tear the foot, but ſometimes they are very neceſſary: this is an inconvenience, which half-ſhoes are liable to, (though excellent in ſeveral other reſpects;) for the end of the ſhoe, being very ſhort, is apt to work ſoon into the foot, and conſequently muſt then be moved. Soldiers ſhould always carry two ſpare ſhoes with them, on the upper end and outward ſide of each holſter pipe, with ſome nails. Some ſhould carry a hammer, others a pair of pinchers, and all be taught how to fix on a ſhoe. The weight of theſe things properly divided is trifling. The uſe of them would be ſoon found on ſervice, particularly with light troops, and on detachments, where farriers cannot be preſent. Major Erſkine of Elliott's has

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has placed theſe things, and all other neceſſaries, better than I ever ſaw them elſewhere by far.

The common practice of ſtuffing feet, that are heated, with dung, I can in no wiſe approve of; for the dung contains a rotting quality in it: clay and hog's lard, well mixed together, is much better for the purpoſe.

The methods of treating and keeping horſes in other reſpects, are as various, and for the generality as inconſiſtent with reaſon, as thoſe of ſhoeing are; but a little conſideration would (in moſt common caſes at leaſt,) direct people right in both. One pampers his cattle, with a view of ſtrengthening them; and afterwards, by way of correction, he pours

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pours down drugs into them without thought or meaſure. Another lets no air at all into his ſtable; from whence his horſes inevitably catch cold, when they ſtir out of it; and are rotted, if they abide in it, by bad corrupted air. A third, equally wiſe, leaves his ſtable open, and his cattle expoſed to the wind and weather at all times, whether his horſes or the weather be hot or cold; and frequently too even in wind-draughts, whilſt they are in a ſweat. All theſe different notions and practices are alike attended with deſtruction to horſes; as alſo are the many extravagances, that prevail in the ſame contradictory extremes, with regard to coverings. But in anſwer to all theſe fooliſh ſyſtems, reaſon plainly ſuggeſts to us, that proper wholeſome food, a well-

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well-tempered circulation of ſweet air, moderate and conſtant exerciſe, with due care, and ſuitable cloathing, as weather and occaſions may require, will never fail to preſerve horſes ſound and in health.

After working, and at night of courſe, as alſo in lameneſſes, and ſickneſſes, 'tis good for horſes to ſtand on litter; it promotes ſtaleing, &c. At other times I do not adviſe it; for the conſtant uſe of it makes the feet tender, and horſes delicate.

It is of the greateſt conſequence for horſes to be kept clean, regularly fed and as regularly exerciſed: but whoever chuſes to ride in the way of eaſe and pleaſure, without any fatigue on horſe-back;

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back; or in ſhort, does not like to carry his horſe inſtead of his horſe's carrying him, muſt not ſuffer his horſe to be exerciſed by a groom, ſtanding up on his ſtirrups, holding himſelf on by means of the reins, and thereby hanging his whole dead weight on the horſe's mouth, to the entire deſtruction of all that is good, ſafe or pleaſant about the animal.

A great quantity of hay, eſpecially that which is taken from water-meadows or any low and ſwampy ground, being of a foggy nature, is not good for horſes: it may ſerve indeed for cart-horſes, and for ſuch troop-horſes, (few of ſuch, thank God, now remain,) who are meant for no other uſe, but to roll on ſlowly with a fat fellow, full of beer, upon them; who, to the ſhame of the ſervice,

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ſervice, with the badge of ſoldierſhip on his back, is a more ſtupid and lazy animal, than what he is mounted upon, which to its misfortune is rendered ſo by the ſluggiſhneſs of its rider. But troops, who are really deſtined for ſervice, and to be uſeful, muſt be active: the very training them to what is abſolutely neceſſary, requires good wind; more or leſs, according to the different intents and purpoſes they may be deſigned for.

Upon ſervice, the allowance of all kinds of forage, whenever there is a poſſibility of ſupplying it, is ſufficient; but ſometimes it cannot be procured for a long while together: beſides which misfortune, it is very often moſt ſhamefully and careleſsly waſted; not to mention, that commiſſaries in general ſeldom

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furniſh out the due quantity or quality of any thing, which they have agreed and engaged for, and are moſt amply paid for.

At home, our horſes are crammed and ruined with over-much hay, and the allowance of corn is ſcanty. Cut ſtraw and a little hay too; ſometimes, mixed with it, is excellent food: to a quartern of corn, put the ſame quantity of cut ſtraw, and now and then, if a horſe is very lean, but not otherwiſe, about half an one of hay, and let them all be well mingled together, and as choped ſtraw is generally exceedingly dry, ſprinkle a little water upon the feed in the manger. This proportion of choped ſtraw may ſeem great, but conſidering the lightneſs of it, it is not ſuch in

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in reality. The quantity of horſes food muſt be proportioned to their ſize, work, make, appetite, &c. yet, in regiments it is neceſſary to fix, and follow ſome kind of general rule in reſpect to it. Four of theſe feeds as above mentioned, with ten or twelve pounds of hay per day, will be ſufficient for moſt horſes on almoſt all occaſions. The allowance at home cannot afford ſo much, neither indeed is ſo much neceſſary, when troops are not on ſervice. The exerciſe horſes take at home, though it ſhould perhaps be greater, and more conſtant, than it is in ſome corps, does not require it.

All ſorts of grains are foggy feeding, and though it plumps up the body, it does not give a wholeſome and ſound

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fat: Bran too is not ſolid food, and is only now and then to be allowed, when horſes are heated, to refreſh, and open them, if the caſe requires it.

Whenever hay is put and left in the racks, as for inſtance at night, it ſhould be well-cleaned and freed from duſt, and not given in too large quantities: In this reſpect, 'tis, like water, much more beneficial, when ſupplied often, and in ſmall quantities at a time. 'Tis a common, but a great error, and very detrimental to horſes, to gallop them immediately after drinking; they ought to be moved only gently. In the middle of the day, good and clean ſtraw is a very wholeſome, and excellent food, if it is ricked up with the hay, (half and half in weight) it mixes well with

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with it, partakes of it's flavour, and does exceedingly well. When it is mixed, as is commonly the cuſtom only juſt at the time of feeding, horſes pick out, and eat all the hay, without touching the ſtraw. I have long practiſed this method, and found it anſwer, but regiments cannot have proper conveniences to do it. Upon the whole, a lean horſe, and a fat horſe, are both diſagreable ſights; a rough coat is no good ſymptom; but the means of making it fine, ſhould not be by dint of heat and covering, but by dreſſing and due care.

It is a duty very requiſite, and incumbent upon officers, to be conſtant, exact and frequent in going up and down the lines in camp, as through the ſtables

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in quarters; as it is likewiſe adviſable for every one to viſit often his own ſtables, to inſpect and ſuperintend the management of the horſes. No trimming with ſciſſars ſhould be permitted; but whatever rough hairs appear, ſhould be taken off by dreſſing. As great inconveniences often happen from horſes getting looſe, I have affixed a draught and deſcription of the moſt effectual halter I know of; and indeed the only one I have found upon trial, that is capable of preventing it.

A common complaint amongſt troop-horſes is broken-wind, which is chiefly occaſioned by ſtuffing them with too much hay; and often by hurrying them too violently after drinking, and after their coming at firſt from graſs. There is

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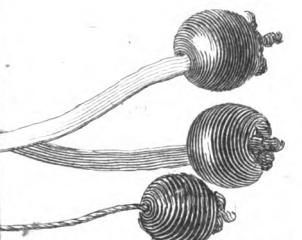

band, or rather it has, in a
d begin at N.o 1. They Cross
t 3. The nose-band is also
re the throat-bands meet;
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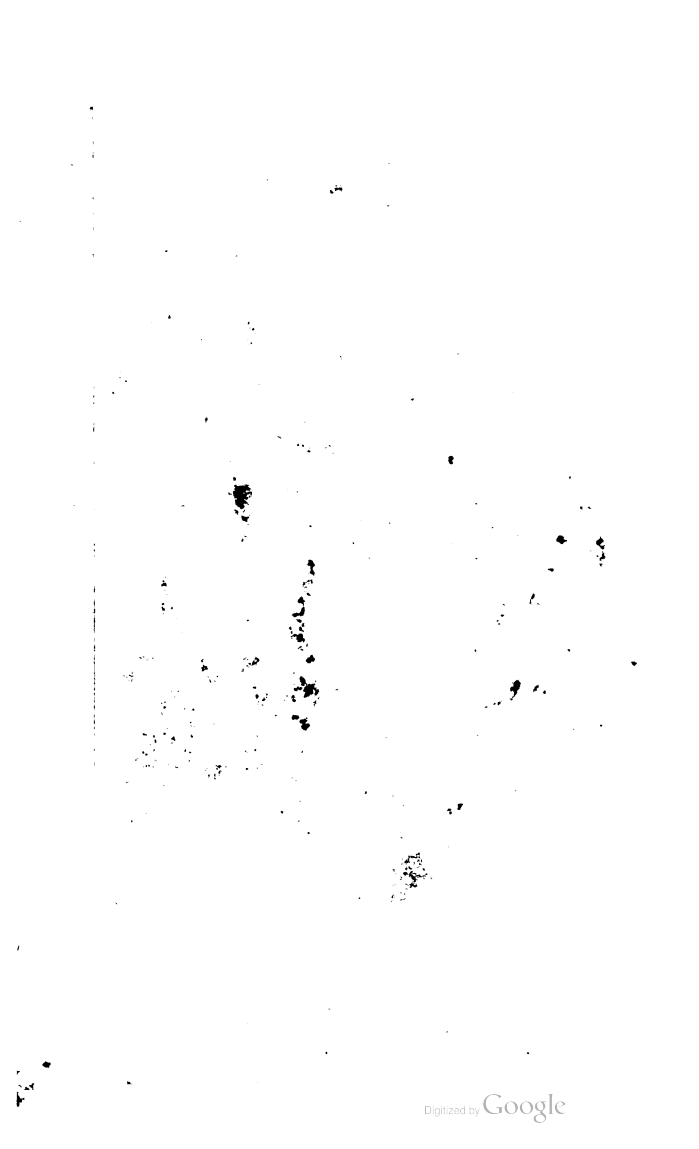
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is no ſovereign remedy, I believe, for broken-wind; but the greateſt palliative I know of, is this following receipt: Take a crucible, and in it put a bed of raſped lead and then a bed of ſulphur, alternately, 'till the crucible is full; and then ſetting fire to the whole, let it continue burning, till the whole is conſumed into a droſs: after which, pound the droſs into powder, ſift it fine, and give it to the horſe faſting every morning, from two to three ounces, in his corn wetted: or if the horſe has a huſky cough, mix it up with treacle, &c. into balls. This medicine cauſes no impediment or inconvenience, and may be given for ever ſo long a time together. Greaſy and ſwelled legs being a very common diſtemper in troop-horſes, I ſhall ſet down the following

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very good receipt for the cure of it. Take ſalt petre two ounces, and two drachms; the ſame quantity of venice turpentine; one ounce, and four drachms of flower of brimſtone; diapente, ſix drachms; mix the whole together with a ſufficient quantity of liquoriſh powder, make it into balls, and give it to the horſe faſting in the morning; he muſt not eat for two hours after taking it, nor drink for five, or ſix hours, and then the water muſt be warmiſh; he muſt be kept warm, and have gentle walking exerciſe the next day; this doſe muſt be repeated twice, or more, as required, with an interval of three days between each doſe. Roſin drink is alſo very good for ſwelled legs. Sometimes a clumſy fellow by negligence and aukwardneſs, which is oftener

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oftener the caſe than any other accident, is the cauſe of his horſe's falling and breaking his knees. If any thing will make the hair come again, and probably of a right colour, burnt cork finely ſifted, mixed with oil, and made into an ointment will do it: it muſt be laid on very often, and the part muſt be kept free from dirt. A blanket for each man carried under the ſaddle is of vaſt uſe to the horſe's back, as well as to the man on many occaſions. Every man ſhould have one.

Every troop ought to have a cutting-box belonging to it, and one man conſtantly employed all day at it in choping hay, ſtraw, &c. Forage of all kinds ſhould be cut and mixed together; and always given to the horſes, (when in camp,)

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camp,) in noſe-bags, or in deep canvas troughs, which are better, by which means nothing is blown away, or loſt. 'Tis not to be imagined, what order horſes are preſerved in by adhering to this method. The Germans wiſely carry, upon all occaſions whatever, every man a double feed of choped ſtraw and corn mixed together, which is never touched, but by expreſs order of the commanding officer, and then too in ſuch quantities, and at what time, he thinks fit to direct. It frequently happens upon long marches, and even ſometimes when the troops ſtand ſtill, that forage cannot be procured for ſome days together; then this German practice, which I have juſt mentioned, in a ſhort time gives ſtrong and apparent proofs of its utility, by the preſervation of their horſes' good plight.

None

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None but thoſe, who have been eye-witneſſes to the fact, can tell, what harm a deficiency of forage, only for two days, does horſes, eſpecially in marches by night, and in bad weather: ſome are often diſabled by it for the whole campaign, and ſome for ever after. This method of the Germans, is the means of ſaving the lives of many horſes, and helps in caſes of exigency, to keep up vigour in moſt of them.

In the beginning of September green forage is no longer plenty on the ground. It would therefore be prudent from that time to make every man carry twenty pounds of ſpun hay, and afterwards later in the year a larger quantity. From about the twentieth of September, for example, or thereabouts, he might carry thirty pounds for

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for the reſt of the campaign, and beſides this hay, eight pounds of oats mixed with four pounds of cut ſtraw, none of theſe to be ever touched, but by order of the commanding officer, and then in ſuch quantity as he thinks fit. This method would often prevent troops from being in great want, and richly repay the horſe for carrying the forage. As hay ſpoils by being kept twiſted up for a long time together, it ſhould be unſpun, and given to the horſes at the end of three days, and a freſh truſs ſpun, and made up. If the campaign ſhould laſt through the whole winter, this forage muſt be carried, till there is green forage enough on the ground the enſuing year, which may not be till late in poor uncultivated countries, or thoſe worn out by war. Whenever horſes come

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come out of quarters, where they have met with abundance, corn muſt be taken from them by degrees, if poſſible, and not all at once, be the ſeaſon, and the country they take the field in ever ſo good. For a conſiderable time horſes will do very well in the field without corn, if, on coming out of quarters, they are not weaned from it too ſuddenly, and the weather, and green forage is tolerably good; but late in the year, when the weather grows bad, and horſes are obliged to go a great way for forage, ſome corn is abſolutely neceſſary.

In fetching forage, eſpecially from any diſtance, the truſſes ſhould be very well fixed and made, and no men ſuffered to ride on them, the weight of both is immenſe. I have ſeen truſſes of three

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three hundred weight, which without a man on it, is a very heavy load. Lazineſs and cuſtom has made ſome people imagine that a truſs of forage cannot be carried without a man on it, but it is not ſo by any means, if the truſſes are well made, and properly fixed. Theſe and many other precautions and care, in matters, ſeemingly perhaps little and trifling, ought to be deemed, (as they really are,) equally as neceſſary for preſerving a regiment in the condition it ought to be for its own credit, and the publick ſervice, as a juſt diſtribution of rewards and puniſhments. Theſe and ſuch-like attentions ſhould no more be diſpenſed with, than that an officer of each troop ſhould conſtantly viſit every horſe of that troop daily in their quarters, cantonments, or lines;

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lines; and eſpecially too, and without delay, after fatiguing marches, and foul weather: but if this care be intruſted to a quarter-maſter, who is already overloaded, not only with his own, but often with the whole buſineſs of the officers, beyond a poſſibility of executing half of it; and if he likewiſe, (being indeed in ſome meaſure compelled to it,) ſhuffle off his burden, all he can, upon the ſerjeants and corporals: what elſe can be expected, but that the ſame ſpirit of idleneſs and diſregard will diffuſe itſelf throughout the whole corps? Hence no duty would be compleatly and eſſentially performed; none in the ſtable with reſpect to the horſes, accoutrements, &c. no regularity in cooking, no care to ſee the men well dried after wet ſervice; in ſhort, no

ſerious

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ſerious attention to numberleſs other neceſſary articles; whereby a regiment would moſt infamouſly fall to ruin, and be very ſoon rendered unfit for ſervice.

THE END.

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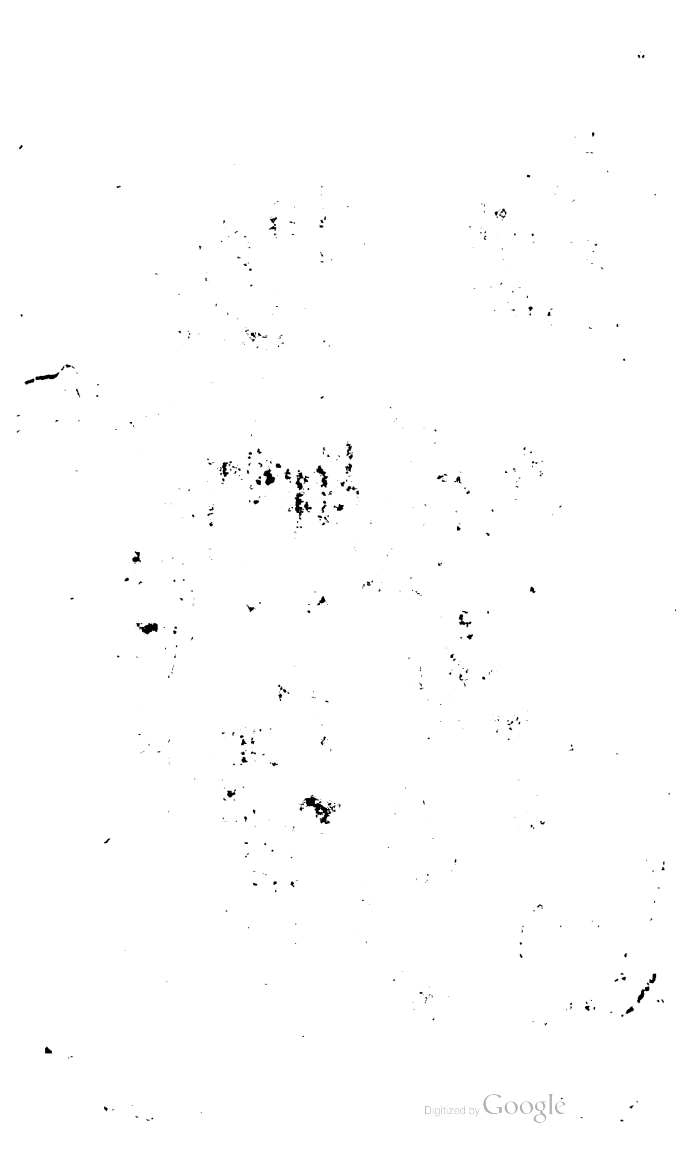
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